

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 NSC-05 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 EB-07 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 SP-02

/062 W

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R 061500Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9677

INFO CNO

COMMANDANT CG WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

OASD/ISA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1858

LONDON FOR US COAST GUARD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, MARR, NO

SUBJECT: CLARINET PILGRIM ASPECT OF LORAN C

REFS: (A) STATE A-8565, NOV. 13, 1974 (NOTAL)

(B) OSLO 548 (NOTAL)

(C) OSLO 894 (NOTAL)

1. SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, CASPER STEPHANSEN, ADVISED EMBOFFS APRIL 24 THAT HE PERSONALLY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY TO TRANSMIT BRIEF NOTE TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS FORMALLY PROPOSING ADDITION OF CLARINET-PILGRIM SYSTEM TO PRESENT LORAN C OPERATIONS. THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO CHECK THIS POINT WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTER. WE HAVE NOT HAD A RESPONSE FROM STEPHANSEN WHO IS PRESENTLY ATTENDING EUROOGROUP MEETING IN LONDON WITH MINISTER FOSTERVOLL. STEPHANSEN, WHO APPEARED ESSENTIALLY SYMPATHETIC TO CLARINET-PILGRIM PROPOSAL,  
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SHED CONSIDERABLE LIGHT ON EXTREME POLITICAL SENSITIVITY

OF THIS ISSUE IN NORWAY, A SITUATION EXACERBATED BY RECENT ADVERSE PUBLICITY CONCERNING HELLEBUST'S MASTERS THESIS (SEE REFS B & C).

2. ONLY OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY AND NORWEGIAN AUTHORITIES ON CLARINET-PILGRIM THUS FAR INVOLVED THE ITU RADIO REGULATORY ASPECTS AS TRANSMITTED BY REF A AND NORWEGIANS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY ANXIOUS TO DOCUMENT AMERICAN PROPOSAL AS WELL AS SUSEQUENT NORWEGIAN DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN LIGHT OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITY. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS ALSO IN USG INTEREST TO PRESENT NORWEGIANS WITH SUCCINCT, FORMAL PROPOSAL AND HAVE REQUEST FOR CLARINET-PILGRIM DOCUMENTED THROUGH "OFFICIAL CHANNELS".

3. EMBASSY HAS FULLY REPORTED BACKGROUND AND DETAILS OF HELLEBUST AFFAIR. WE WERE, HOWEVER, SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM STEPHASEN THAT HELLEBUST IS ALSO AWARE OF CLARINET-PILGRIM PROPOSAL. THIS UNFORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS HAS FURTHER COMPLICATED THE SITUATION AND ADDED TO NORWEGIAN PROBLEMS IN REACHING DECISION FAVORABLE US IN THE NEAR FUTURE. STEPHANSEN ADVISED THAT HELLEBUST WAS "GREATLY ANGERED" UPON LEARNING ABOUT THE CLARINET-PILGRIM PROPOSAL IN DECEMBER 1974, BUT TO DATE NO ADVERSE PUBLICITY HAS SURFACED. THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE THE ENTIRE HELLEBUST AFFAIR (SEE PARA 2 OF REF C), SPECIFICALLY HELLEBUST'S CHARGES THAT THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS AT THE TIME OF NORWAY'S ACQUISITION OF THE LORAN C AND OMEGA SYSTEMS WAS FAULTY AND IN AMERICAN BUT NOT NORWEGIAN INTERESTS, HAS COMMENCED ITS ACTIVITIES. STEPHANSEN SAID IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT COULD REACH A DECISION ON CLARINET-PILGRIM UNTIL THE HELLEBUST COMMISSION COMPLETED ITS INVESTIGATION FIRST. HE SPECULATED THAT THE COMMISSION COULD TAKE UP TO ONE YEAR TO COMPLETE A REPORT THAT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY EXONERATE THE NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AND REFUTE HELLEBUST'S CHARGES.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE MINISTRY OF  
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DEFENSE AND NORWEGIAN DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY ARE BASICALLY SYMPATHETIC TO OUR CLARINET-PILGRIM PROPOSAL. GIVEN THE UNFORTUNATE SENSITIVITY SURROUNDING THE ISSUE, HOWEVER, WE ALSO FEEL IT WOULD BE A SERIOUS ERROR TO PUSH THE NORWEGIANS TOO HARD FOR A DECISION OR RISK INTERFERING WITH THE IMPORTANT DELIBERATIONS UNDERWAY AT VARIOUS LEVELS IN THE NORWEGIAN ESTABLISHMENT. SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION COULD WELL PROVE

COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO OUR GOAL AND PRECIPITATE A  
NEGATIVE RESPONSE. FYI - FONMIN DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL  
AFFAIRS VIBE ALSO HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT TABLING FORMAL PROPOSAL  
AT THIS TIME AND IS CHECKING POINT WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTER FRYDENLUND. END FYI

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DRAFT  
TEXT OF NOTE TO ROYAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRO-  
POSING ADDITION OF CLARINET-PILGRIM SYSTEM TO LORAN C  
NETWORK. WE EXPECT FOSTERVOLL'S AND FRYDENLUND'S REACTIONS  
IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IF THERE IS AGREEMENT WITH STEPHANSEN'S INITIAL  
PROPOSAL, WE WOULD THEN TRANSMIT THIS NOTE SUBJECT TO CON-  
CURRENCE OF DEPARTMENT AND INTERESTED AGENCIES.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, RADIO COMMUNICATION, NAVIGATION SATELLITES, INVESTIGATIONS  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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